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ENNEAPOGON DESVAUXII AND PAPPOPHORUM WRIGHTII, AN AGROSTOLOGICAL DETECTIVE STORY

Agnes Chase

Enneapogon Desv., recognized either as a subgenus of *Pappophorum* Schreb. or as a distinct genus, has always been a puzzle because, though several species are well known, the type species could not be ascertained. The genus was described by Beauvois (Ess. Agrost. 81. 1812), who ascribed it to Desvaux. One species, *Enneapogon Desvauxii,* is figured (loc. cit., pl. 16, fig. 11) but not described, and four Australian species of *Pappophorum* described by Robert Brown are cited but not transferred. The figure, showing a dense panicle, the characteristic spikelet, and the lemma with nine feathered awns, is unmistakable as to the genus. Desvaux (Jour. de Bot. 1: 70. 1813) transferred Brown's species of *Pappophorum* to *Enneapogon,* preceded by the statement that he had examined a plant from "iles Manilles" that proved to be a distinct genus, close to the well-known genus *Pappophorum,* and in the same paper he cited *Enneapogon Desvauxii* as a synonym of *E. gracilis* (R. Br.) Desv. Later, because Beauvois had failed to do so, Desvaux described *Enneapogon Desvauxii,* "Habitat in Manilia" [sic] (Opusc. 98. 1831) and excluded it from the synonymy of *E. gracilis.* No species of *Enneapogon,* however, has ever been found in any of the Pacific Islands until recently in Maui, Hawaii, where it probably was introduced.

Because *Pappophorum Wrightii* S. Wats. [*Enneapogon Wrightii* (S. Wats.) C. E. Hubb.], belonging to the genus or subgenus *Enneapogon,* occurs in the southwestern United States from Texas to California as well as in Mexico and Argentina, the problem is of interest to us. In an attempt to identify the type of the genus, the writer searched in vain for *Enneapogon Desvauxii* in the Delessert Herbarium in Geneva, Switzerland, where a few of the Beauvois specimens were found, and in the herbarium of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

Recently, Nancy Tyson Burbidge of the University of Adelaide, Australia, published "A Revision of the Australian Species of Enneapogon Desv." [Proc. Linn. Soc. London 153 Sess. (1940–41): 52–91, fig. 1–5. 1941]. Her revision was based on material in Kew Herbarium and on collections on loan there. Miss Burbidge states (op. cit., p. 53): "The war was responsible for the evacuation of Robert Brown's type material from the British Museum before it had been properly studied. . . . References made to his material are founded on the portions of his types which are at Kew." And (op. cit., p. 57) "In the British Museum there is a specimen labelled 'Enneapogon, Manilla, Herb. D. Desvaux,' in Robert Brown's writing, which indicates that the two authors were in communication at some period. This specimen, which is here accepted as a portion of the type, consists of an inflorescence with a culm bearing three leaves. In the axil of the uppermost is a small axillary inflorescence. It agrees in spikelet character and general habit with *Pappophorum Wrightii* S. Wats. (Proc. Amer. Acad. 18: 178. 1883), which therefore, lapses into synonymy." Comparison of the figure of *Enneapogon Desvauxii* in Beauvois (loc. cit.) with our American *Pappophorum Wrightii* shows that the two agree and further substantiates Miss Burbidge's conclusion.

The specific identity of the type is thus settled, but where was it collected and by whom? Experience in tracing the sources of Desvaux's species has shown that his cited localities are often erroneous. (*Panicum aciculare* Desv. of the eastern United States and the West Indies, in which the locality was given as "Indies orientales," is a good example). Because our southwestern states, where the species is frequent, were not explored botanically before 1830 and because *Enneapogon Desvauxii* was described in 1812, it seemed probable that the specimen came from Mexico. We learn from Leségue (Musée Bot. Delessert, p. 347. 1845) that Née, one of the botanists who collected in the Americas at an early date, crossed from Acapulco to Mexico City before he joined Haenke on the Malaspina Expedition. Née's collections were sent to Madrid where his herbarium is now preserved (op. cit., p. 451), and Lagasca, who was in charge of the herbarium there, was in communication with the French botanists. Sessé also collected in Mexico and sent his collections to Madrid, but there seemed less probability that his specimens would have been labelled "Manilla." These surmises were communicated to Dr. L. R. Parodi, of Argentina, who replied that in 1935 he had examined, in the herbarium in Madrid, a specimen "Ex Chile, Née iter," which was the same as *Pappophorum Wrightii.* Dr. Parodi had found that many of Née's collections in the herbarium at Madrid bore doubtful localities and he believed that since Née passed by Mendoza, Argentina, on his return from Chile, he might well have collected the *Enneapogon* at Villa Vicencio, on the eastern slope of the

Cordillera (i.e., in Argentina), where this species is still fairly common. Dr. Parodi thought that the specimens sent to Desvaux and shared by him with Robert Brown had probably come from the herbarium of Zea and were doubtless part of the collection in Madrid. Therefore, in spite of errors in data, the type has been located and identified and the very probable source of the specimen has been discovered. Our *Pappophorum Wrightii* Wats. thus becomes a synonym of *Enneapogon Desvauxii* Beauv.

With the removal of *Pappophorum Wrightii* from it, the genus *Pappophorum* can be limited to plants having one-nerved glumes and lemmas that are dissected into an indefinite number (ten to many) of fine, unequal, scaberulous awns. So limited, *Pappophorum* is confined to the Americas. *Enneapogon,* on the other hand, with seven- to many-nerved glumes and lemmas that are crowned with nine flat, usually plumose awns that are equal (or subequal) in length, is widely distributed. There are nineteen species in Australia, ten or more in Africa, and five or six in Asia, one of which, *E. borealis* (Griseb.) Honda, closely resembles the only American species, *E. Desvauxii.* In two of the African species of *Enneapogon,* the nine flat awns are not plumose. In *E. Desvauxii,* cleistogamous spikelets are produced in the lower sheaths; Miss Burbidge found cleistogenes in four Australian species, and the writer found them in one Asiatic and in two African species of *Enneapogon.*

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TWO SPECIES OF MICONIA FROM SALVADOR

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In most of the Melastomataceae the style, even in bud, is elongate and lengthens further during anthesis so that it is usually about as long as the filaments. How then shall we interpret a few "species" in which the style is permanently short or nearly aborted? Is this a specific character or merely a teratological condition? Within the section Cremanium of the genus *Miconia* there are five such species, all known from a few specimens only: *M. hemenostigma* Naud. (1851), "stylus fere nullus in umbilico ovarii inclusus," *M. biperulifera* Cogn. (1891), "stylo nullo," *M. purulensis* Donn. Sm. (1908), "stylus in floribus perscrutatis nullus," *M. minuta* Gl. (1925), "style 0.7 mm. long," and *M. brachygyna* Gl. (1930), "style 0.5 mm. long." The last three seem to be closely related and the short style may there be a group character; possibly the first should be included with them. But the second is quite different, and now I find a sixth in which the whole pistil is completely lacking.